

Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Elko District Office, Elko, Nevada

RAC Attendance

Jeff White, Chairman
Dave Pierce
Jake Carter
Kevin Lee
Jack Prier
Julie Hughes
Cyd McMullen
Larry Hyslop
Jeanne Nations
Bill Wolf

Energy/Minerals (1)
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Federal Grazing (1)
Transportation (1)
Environmental (2)
Dispersed Recreation (2)
Archaeology (2)
Wildlife (2)
Wild Horse and Burro (2)
Public-At-Large (3)

BLM Representatives Present

Chris Cook
Shawna Richardson
Rosey Thomas
Jill Silvey
Bryan Fuell
Sandy Johnsen
Chris Rose

Acting District Manager- Battle Mountain
Battle Mountain District
District Manager- Ely
District Manager- Elko
Elko District
Elko District
Nevada State Office

Presenters

Jay Kirkpatrick
Laura Leigh
Neda DeMayo

Science and Conservation Center
Wild Horse Education
Return to Freedom

Members of the Public

Sandra Reed

Minutes from 10/16/2014

~ 9:00 am: RAC meeting called to order

Jeff White

- Chris Rose, NV State Office PAO, made several announcements, including the need for a list of RAC members and their email addresses.

- Jeff White reminded the attendees that the RAC is a business meeting intended to generate recommendations for the BLM with regard to the management of public lands. Further, all attendees were reminded that there is a strict three minute time limit for public comments.

~ 9:10 am: Review of the minutes from the previous RAC meeting of 8/28/2014

- Without corrections or revisions, the minutes were approved. The minutes will be finalized and archived.

~9:20 am: Standards and Guidelines for Grazing and Wild Horses and Burros

Ken Visser

- A discussion of the historical context regarding how the BLM operates the WH&B program, as well as a discussion of potential fertility control mechanisms, which is expected to lead to a DRAFT IM for a Wild Horse and Burro Management Plan

Presentation of the Nevada Bureau of Land Management Land Health Standards and Guidelines: Their Development and Use

Q&As that occurred:

- A recommendation was made that the RAC should strongly recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that the Standards and Guidelines for Grazing and Wild Horses and Burros be endorsed.
- It was noted that for such fundamentals as watershed function, water quality, & wildlife restoration, progress has been made, though is incremental.
- Amendments or modifications can be made to temporary permits before the next grazing year.
- On average, 50% of permits in NV have moved through the S&G process for a full permit, with the rest on "rider"; priorities must be "triaged".
- Permittees should apply for "non-use" on a case-by-case basis, and the issuing of "conservation non-use" should be stopped.
- The ultimate objective of rangeland management is to create diverse areas where livestock can graze. Anything more specific will be ignored by permittees.
- RAC can help managers by defining what is meant by "significant" progress, given the differences among grazing areas. The grazing program is complex, and though court cases have provided some clarity, the process continues to get longer and more complex.
- There is frustration with the amount of time it takes to get a permit renewal; claims of "historic use" can cause complications. Congress is still considering increasing the length of time for a

permit from 10 years to 20 years. The Taylor Grazing Act created new rules for permits, to avoid conflicts between the grazing of cows and sheep.

- The preference to use public lands is transferable; preference to use an allotment can be transferred to another ranch if approval is received from the BLM.

~11:00 am: Public Comment

CTR as a Temporary Strategy

Sue Cattoor (via letter)

On-Range Management Program

Henry Kimbell (via letter)

~11:00 am: Fertility Control for Wild Horse Populations

Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick

Presentation of Wild Horse Fertility Control: Treating the Problem and Not the Symptoms

Q&As that occurred:

- The actual cost of a contraceptive vaccine varies from site to site.
- Removing horses from a herd speeds up growth in the size of the herd.
- Once a fertility control program is started, it must be kept going.

~12:30 pm: Discussion regarding PZP

- Timing is important when giving PZP.
- PZP as a primer shot must be given before using PZP-22.
- PZP-22 is not federally approved.
- Sprayvac wraps PZP in lipid layers, and has led to disease and pathology in mares.

~12:50 pm: Presentations

Antelope Herd Management Area Ely, Nevada White Pine County

Jeanne Nations

Trap Site Adoptions

Laura

Return to Freedom, Wild Horse Preservation & Sanctuary

Neda DeMayo

~1:30 pm: Open Discussion on the Proposal for a PZP Pilot Program

- Treated mares could be branded so they could be identified over distances.
- There are individuals who are already trained in how to administer PZP, and are ready to volunteer.
- An on-line petition by the American Wild Horse Organization received 20,000+ signatures in one week. PZP treatment is endorsed by the American Wild Horse Preservation organization and by the Humane Society.
- Each district will look for its own opportunities to implement the program, and will have to start small to find success. Work will need to start with "corps" herds, as it will be necessary to get back to those herds for repeat treatments.

- Timing will be determined by the environment, cost, and number of people available.
- Individual statements of RAC members:
 - Kevin Lee: this will require a long-term commitment and alternatives for finding help need to be explored.
 - Jacob Carter: great to start on a small scale; proposal is good, but need to plan for time/money/people.
 - Cyd McMullen: approves the plan, as long as the BLM is on-board
 - Julie Hughes: a subcommittee needs to be created to for further recommendations since there will be “no going back”; a plan needs to be developed for those horses already in holding.
 - David Pierce: there is a lot of support for this plan, since it has already been proven effective. There may be a problem in implementation – need regulatory and monetary support.
 - Bill Wolf: it has been demonstrated that PZP works, so this first effort is to demonstrate how this will be done programmatically and universally. There will need to be a report to RAC regarding how the process is working over the long-haul, and there needs to be consideration of any “scale-up” opportunities. The report also would need to address why the pilot project didn’t work, if it doesn’t meet with success.
 - Jill Silvey: the idea is intriguing, and if the pilot doesn’t work in Ely, Elko District would be willing to entertain conducting the pilot project .
 - Jeff White: approve of the scale of the initial approach.
 - Rosie Thomas: Rosie and Jeanne can work on the details, but approves the policy/approach. This approach is the only positive one available, and would like to see this plan work towards creating a “BLM model”. Jeanne can make recommendations about particular projects to be done in Ely. The RAC needs to write a letter to Amy Leuters to drive this CTR direction, with the intent that the NV State Office tells the BLM to implement this plan in NV; the letter needs to be written now.
 - Chris Cook: this approach needs to consider the BLM/NEPA process, and have a phased implementation. There is not a lack of will, but there are concerns about the process and potential appeals.
 - Jeff White: a well-done to Jeanne. Discussions among the RAC members are clear on the direction in which to proceed. The next RAC action is to craft a letter, to include a policy statement around fertility population control, with the “Jeanne plan” as a starting point, and will identify the problems with holding facilities. The letter will be sent to Sally Jewell via Amy. Volunteers are needed to craft the first draft of the letter – Bill Wolf and Jeanne Nations will begin the draft writing process.
- Official vote: Unanimous vote to approve the drafting of a letter endorsing the concept for a program using Catch- Treat-Release (CTR) and which will encourage the State Office to make it the primary method for regulating wild horse numbers in Nevada. The letter will be sent to Sally Jewell via Amy Leuters, with a cc to the District Managers.
- Jeff made final administrative comments: the Sage Grouse final EIS will not be released until late 2014 or early 2015. A final decision will not be made until mid to late 2015. The Tri-RAC will be held in Las Vegas the week of 26 January 2015. New appointments/renewals are due

next month. Thank you to the out-going members, and to Rosey Thomas. This will be the last meeting of the year.

~2:45 pm: RAC meeting is adjourned.

DRAFT